(c) what action has been taken by Government to get the travellers rid of touts and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Normally, friends, relatives and others who come to receive the arriving passengers, hold placards sowing the passengers' names, on the cityside near the exit from arrival hall. This is a practice prevalent world over. The manifests of arriving passengers are known only to the concerned airline, and AAI has also not come across any complaints of instances where a foreigner has been harassed/cheated by an unknown agent displaying placard showing his name. Some cases of unauthorised persons holding baggage trolleys outside the departure hall of international terminal, and trying to take money from departing passengers for handing the trolleys, have come to AAI's notice on which AAI has taken appropriate action. In certain cases such unauthorised persons have been apprehended by AAI and have been handed over to the police for taking necessary action as per law. Touting being a criminal offence, is also being dealt with by the Police posted at the airport. The facility of pre-paid taxi service is available at Delhi airport. An arriving passenger can easily avail this facility which is operated by Delhi Traffic Police and records of passenger, taxi number, destination etc. are kept. Tourism counters operated by Tourist Department of Government of India and by Delhi Tourism Development Corporation are also available to domestic and international arrival terminals of the IGI Airport, where passengers can get information for booking hotel accommodation.

Vacant land with Hyderabad Airport

613. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that moe than twenty thousand square meters of vacant land is available with Hyderabad airport in Andhra Prades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide Cargo Warehouses at this site of the airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, in what manner this vacant land is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) About 2000 sq.m. of land in the operational area and about 3000 sq.m. of land in the non-operational area are available at Hyderabad airport.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for construction of aircraft maintenance hangar in the vacant land in the operatinoal area and Cargo Complex in the vacant land in non-operational area.

Bilateral Agreement between India and U.K.

614. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral negotiations between India and U.K. to open each other's aviation market have ended in a statement;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be undertaken to work out a mutually acceptable solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The bilateral talks held between India and UK on 20-21st June, 2002, were inconclusive since the UK side was unable to give an assurance to the Indian side as to the availability of slots for Air India to operate more flights via London to points in Canada and USA. It was agreed to meet again to continue discussions.

Bank Guarantee on IA Tickets

615. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to do away with the bank guarantee aainst the issuance of tickets by the travel agents;

(b) the reasons for allowing over trading levels above the bank guarantee to the Agents; and